



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 19, 2021

Committee: House Economic Matters

Bill: HB 261 - Business Regulation – Battery-Charged Fence Security Systems – Regulation

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 261 which prohibits local governments from taking certain actions pertaining to the installation of certain battery charged fences that emit a shock when touched.

The League has regularly opposed preemption of local authority through state mandates and portions of this bill include such preemptions. Specifically, the bill prevents a local government from requiring a person to obtain any permit other than an alarm system permit in the installation of a battery charged fence. A local government also may not impose any operational or installation requirements on a battery charged fence.

Planning and permitting is a strong local authority in Maryland and this bill would make a dramatic statewide exception for one type of structure. This structure has visual and sightline impact potentially near public rights-of-way and emits an electrical shock. The installation of such a structure may need local permitting beyond just an alarm system permit.

MML opposes the bill on the grounds that it limits municipal authority to govern its business in the area of permitting, which is a local function. For this reason, the Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 261 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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